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December Meeting

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December Meeting

THE Luncheon meeting, on December 5, 1927, in the Chamber of Commerce Building, was called to order by President Stearns at 12:45 P. M.

Admissions

Horace Hawkins, Jr., Chairman of the Admissions Committee was requested to inform the meeting concerning the caliber of the applicants for admission to be voted on. A unanimous vote was then cast in favor of Hyman D. Landy, Fred Y. Holland, Thompson G. Marsh, James R. Jones, James D. Parriott, and Frank Swancara, and they, although absent, were welcomed by President Stearns.

Committee of Criminal Jurisprudence

There being no new or old business and no committee reports, and as the meeting had been arranged to

afford an opportunity for the Committee on Criminal Jurisprudence to acquaint the Association with its contemplated activities, the chair was turned over to Harry S. Silverstein, Chairman of that Committee.

Mr. Silverstein stated that full credit was due Honorable Justice Charles C. Butler for the activity and organization of the Committee on Criminal Jurisprudence in that the plans of activity and lines of organization of the Committee were the same as those instituted by Hon. Justice Butler in his chairmanship of the Committee at its inception. He stated that the present Committee, although it had had only one meeting so far, had arrived at two conclusions—one unanimously, the other on a three to two basis. The first of these was that the Committee

felt as a whole that the success of criminal jurisprudence depends upon the judges and therefore the Committee was in favor of an increase of judicial salaries and any other movement to secure for the future the good caliber of the judges. The three to two conclusion was that the Committee was against crime (Mr. Hawkins, being absent at that Committee meeting, was credited with an affirmative vote upon this resolution).

Van Cise on Crime Commission in Washington (Not the Crimes Committed in Washington)

Mr. Silverstein then called upon Mr. Philip Van Cise, who had attended the last meeting of the National Crime Commission in Washington.

Crime Situation in Colorado

Mr. Van Cise in opening stated that in response to his request to sheriffs throughout Colorado to give a statement of their county situation as to crime, one sheriff had replied that "my people like to violate the 18th amendment and the adultery commandment."

Organization of National Crime Commission

Mr. Van Cise, in speaking of the original organization of the National Crime Commission, said that President Coolidge had selected Mr. Truby Davidson as its first chairman. Mr. Van Cise must have felt that the Republican administration had done at least one good thing in that he paid Mr. Davidson's leadership the highest tribute, explaining that Mr. Davidson is devoting his entire time and energies to public betterment in accordance with the wish expressed by his father in bequeathing a large inheritance to him. Mr. Van Cise regretted the fact that Mr. Davidson no longer is chairman, having gone into other work of a public nature. Mr. Van Cise informed the Associa-

tion that the Commission as planned was to consist of twelve appointees to appoint five sub-committees for a special division of the work to be conducted—those appointed to act together with the original appointees as the Commission.

FIRST MEETING

Mr. Van Cise stated that the Commission has had only two meetings, the first one being one year ago last May. The fundamental idea worked out at this meeting, along which the work of the Commission was to follow, Mr. Van Cise stated as being that no one element or group of people is competent to say why crime and criminals exist, but every element must be consulted as to its ideas, in that a study of all these will elucidate the reason and dictate the remedy. The Commission was then dedicated to conduct such a research, to act as a clearing house for the States and to encourage the formation of and work of local Crime Commissions. The five main heads of the work (five sub-committees), as outlined by Mr. Van Cise, were as follows: First—What in the main creates criminals and makes them thrive—with a view to their betterment; second—Judicial Administration; third—Medical; fourth—Pardons, Paroles, and Probations; fifth—Firearm Control.

SECOND MEETING

Mr. Van Cise stated that the second meeting took place in Washington on the same day that the mistrial in the Sinclair-Fall Oil Case was declared, which put impetus into the meeting, as it clearly showed the Commission the problems ahead of it.

Taft's View

The keynote of the meeting, according to Mr. Van Cise, was sounded by Chief Justice Taft, giving as

his opinion that what is needed is more police—speedier justice—and legislation to secure it.

Programme of Second Meeting

The programme of the second meeting, outlined by Mr. Van Cise, was—

First Day—

Reports of Local Commissions.
Association of Grand Jurors in
New York County, N. Y.
National Fence Elimination.
Prison Labor Problem.

Second Day—

Pardons, Paroles and Probations.
Medical.
Identification of Criminals.

Reports of Local Commissions

Mr. Van Cise pointed out that so far comparatively few local commissions had been organized. He stated that in Colorado there was no State Commission and only one local one—the committee of this association. Illinois and Iowa were stated as having state Bank Vigilantes (resulting from numerous bank robberies) which trained rifle shots and paid more for a dead bandit than a live one, with the beneficial result of a lowered insurance rate. He pointed out that since the activities of the "Vigilantes" there had been an influx into Colorado with an insurance increase of nine dollars a thousand.

Association of Grand Jurors in New York

Mr. Van Cise's report on this head was that many subordinate associations sent representatives who took part in the discussions.

National Fence

After estimating over three billion dollars per year, or twenty dollars per capita, as the increase of the price of stolen goods in the United States, the speaker stated the opin-

ion of the National Crime Commission as being that this figure could be cut if the "fence" was eliminated. He also pointed out that interstate shipment of stolen goods demands national legislation.

Prison Labor

"Lack of work makes Bums" in the opinion of the National Crime Commission but it is also mindful of the danger of competition with the manufacturer and organized labor, according to Mr. Van Cise. He stated that New York reported a States Use System where by statute the State officials are required to purchase from the goods manufactured by prison labor everything required for State purposes in so far as manufactured by prison labor, thus attempting to do away with the conflict. He also stated the Commission as believing that a job was more beneficial than giving a prisoner a higher education while incarcerated.

Situation in Colorado

Mr. Van Cise gave the following facts concerning the situation in Colorado—

Jails only one-third filled.

Penitentiary filled to overflowing with 1054 inmates of whom only 124 are working at any sort of a job.

Pardons, Paroles and Probations

The conclusions of the Commission on this division were given by Mr. Van Cise as follows—

The abuse of the use of pardons in every state was so notorious that a check was considered necessary even though the Chief Executive should be left unhampered in its use as far as possible. Compensation is recommended by the state for the time a man has been incarcerated if his incarceration is found to have been

wrongful. A favorable report of a medical examination should be required before pardon, parole or probation. Competent and adequate systems of parole control should be provided for. Parole Boards should strive to equalize the sentences from different localities for similar offenses.

Medical Aspect

The Commission was stated as endorsing the view that definite sentences are no protection to society against the insane or habitual criminal and therefore advocates medical examination before trial by appointees of the Court. Colorado at its last legislature passed a bill of this nature which, according to Mr. Van

Cise, is a step in the right direction although still experimental.

Criminal Identification

In Mr. Van Cise's opinion criminal identification is the best help and he advocated State Bureaus.

In conclusion he stated that this Association's Committee was interested in the same questions as the National Commission and urged the establishment of a State Crime Commission.

Digest of Supreme Court Decisions

Upon motion duly seconded and carried, it was resolved that the President appoint a committee to consider the feasibility of a continuing publication of a periodical digest of Colorado Supreme Court Decisions.

Senator Capper's Proposed Reply To The Briand Peace Offer

NOTE—In publishing an address by Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler the texts of Senator Capper's Resolution and the joint resolution of Congressman Burton are printed.

WASHINGTON, D. C., November 21—Senator Arthur Capper (Republican) of Kansas, today announced that he will introduce at the opening session of the Senate a joint resolution providing for the renunciation of war as an instrument of national policy and calling for the settlement of international disputes by arbitration or conciliation.

The Capper resolution is looked upon by those who have read it, as the most important step in international relations initiated by a member of Congress since the world war. It is likely to attract world-wide interest as it indicates a practical legislative move in international affairs by the United States.

The full text of the resolution follows:

Whereas the Congress of the United States on August 29, 1916, solemnly declared it "to be the policy of the United States to adjust and settle its international disputes through mediation or arbitration, to the end that war may be honorably avoided"; and

Whereas Aristide Briand, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the French Republic, on April 6, 1927, publicly declared to the people of the United States that "France would be willing to subscribe publicly with the United States to any mutual engagement tending to outlaw war, to use an American expression, as between